THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 21st November 1955.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI N. GOPALA MENON) in the Chair.

I.—SWEARING-IN OF A NEW MEMBER.

Sri A. M. Rathnaswami was sworn-in.

II.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Collection of fees in elementary schools

* 2648 *Q.*—SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the conditions under which managements are allowed to collect fees in elementary schools;

(*b*) how many elementary schools in the State are collecting fees; and

(*c*) the rate of fee collected?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : (*a*) No specific conditions have been prescribed for the collection of school fees in elementary schools. The collection of fees in elementary schools is largely left to the discretion of the managements.

(*b*) About 1,120.

(*c*) There is no uniform rate. It varies from place to place.

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP : May I know, Sir, whether the fee collected is taken into consideration in making grants to these institutions?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM : In respect of elementary schools the grant is being paid, based on the number of teachers engaged and then 15 per cent is allowed for expenses for administration. The fee collected is not taken into consideration.

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR : Sir, in view of the fact that no specific conditions have been prescribed with regard to the levy of fees in elementary schools, are the Government aware that managers of certain aided elementary schools levy fees beyond the paying capacity of the people and not in conformity with the principles of the Madras Educational Rules as a result of which some of poor people are not in a position to send their children to the schools? I can quote so many instances. Will the Government enquire into the matter and see that such practices are stopped? Will the Hon. Minister also be pleased to state whether